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Appl. No. 09/879,794
Amdt. dated August 7, 2006
Reply to Office Action of April 6, 2006

PATENT**REMARKS****I. Status of the Claims**

Claims 1-31 are pending.

II. The Office Action

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation that the Office Action dated April 6, 2006 (the "Action"), withdraws the previous rejection of the claims over Tressler, Fennema, and Matz. The Action does, however, reject the claims as obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over a newly cited reference, Bear and Bear, HOW TO REPAIR FOOD, Ten Speed Press, Berkeley, California (1998)(hereafter, "Bear"), alone and in combination with previously cited references. Applicants respectfully traverse all the rejections. For the Examiner's convenience, the rejections are addressed below in the order in which they appear in the Action.

A. Rejection of claims 1-16 over Bear

The Action rejects claims 1-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Bear. The Action observes that, on page 37, Bear refers to a method for re-crisping "soggy cold cereal," Action, at page 2, and asserts that the only difference between the methods claimed in the instant application and the teachings of Bear is the reference to "bowl life." The Action asserts that it would have been obvious for the crisp cereal of Bear to have an enhanced bowl life. Applicants respectfully traverse, for Bear neither teaches nor suggests the invention as claimed.

The claims under examination recite the step of "contacting said cereal product with substantially pure water or with steam for a time sufficient to hydrate the surface but not sufficient to permit the water or steam to hydrate the interior of said cereal product." See, claim 1. The Action notes that Bear "discloses treating soggy cold cereal" by heating it at 350°F to recrisp it. The Action states that it is "appreciated that the extent of hydration is not mentioned but an ordinary muggy day would not be expect[ed] to fully hydrate the interior of the cereal

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product," Action, at page 2, and contends that Bear therefore meets the recitation of the claims. Bear itself, however, refutes the Action's contention.

The relevant passage of Bear states:

"Somebody left the cold cereal open on the muggiest day of the year and your cereal is limp and soggy. Pour it onto a cookie sheet and bake it for 2 or 3 minutes at 350°."

Bear, at page 37. Bear therefore states that the cereal is both "*limp* and *soggy*." In this context, the word "limp" has the meaning "lacking firm texture, substance, or structure." *See, e.g.*, third definition of "limp" in Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, Merriam-Webster, Inc., Springfield (10th ed., 1997), at page 676. Cold cereal can only have lost its firm structure if it has been hydrated sufficiently to hydrate the interior, since any area not hydrated would cause the cereal to retain its structure. The word therefore connotes a physical change that is only possible if the interior of the cereal has been hydrated.

Any doubt about this reading of Bear is removed by the fact that Bear also uses the word "soggy." The word "soggy" is defined as "saturated or heavy with water or moisture." *See*, Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, *supra*, at page 1117 (for the Examiner's convenience, the cited pages of this Dictionary are enclosed). By the use of the words "limp" and "soggy," the Bear authors plainly indicate that the cereal that is their subject has been hydrated through to its interior, and therefore does not meet the recitation of the claims under examination.

The claimed invention is directed to methods which involve hydrating the surface, but not the interior, of a cereal product. Bear's method relates to cereals which are "limp" and "soggy," and which therefore plainly have been hydrated throughout. Bear's discussion is therefore directed to a method outside of the scope of the claimed invention. The rejection should be reconsidered and, upon reconsideration, withdrawn.

B. Rejection of claims 16-20 over Bear and Matz

The Action rejects claims 16-20 as obvious in light of Bear in combination with the previously cited reference, Matz, FOOD TEXTURE, Avi Publishing Co., Inc., Westport, CT

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(1962) (hereafter, "Matz"). According to the Action, page 85 of Bear teaches recrisping soggy potato chips by placing them in a broiler or in a microwave. The Action states that the method of Bear appears to differ from the invention by the preamble limitation. The Action then cites Matz as stating that "when the moisture content of a substance is reduced to a level insufficient to allow a monomolecular layer, special properties result. The texture is altered, resulting in a friable condition," and states that "one of ordinary skill would expect a rehydrated potato chip would be dried to a point that is less friable." Action, at page 3 (emphasis added). Applicants traverse.

As an initial matter, it is again observed that claim 16 recites "contacting said potato chip or freeze-dried food with water for a time sufficient to hydrate the surface but not sufficient to permit the water or steam to hydrate the interior of said potato chip or freeze-dried food." Thus, potato chips contacted with sufficient moisture to hydrate the interior are not within the scope of the claimed methods. Bear, however, states that its method is directed to recrisping "soggy" chips. As noted in the preceding section, the word "soggy" is defined as "saturated or heavy with water or moisture." See, Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, *supra*, at page 1117. By the use of the word "soggy," the Bear authors once again plainly indicate that the chip that is their subject has been hydrated through to its interior, and therefore does not meet the recitation of the claims under examination.

This deficiency in Bear is not made up by Matz. The portion of Matz cited by the present Action was also raised in the Office Action dated September 30, 2005, and responded to in the Applicants' Amendment dated February 13, 2006 (the "February 2006 Amendment"). As the Applicants pointed out in the February 2006 Amendment, the passage of Matz quoted by the Action states that reducing the moisture content of a substance below a level sufficient to allow a monomolecular layer results in a friable condition. Matz would therefore lead the person of skill to assume that drying the item back to its original moisture content would undesirably increase, not decrease, the friability of the item, since it would presumably dry the item back below the level of moisture necessary to allow a monomolecular layer. Thus, the hypothesis of the present Action that Matz would lead "one of ordinary skill [to] expect a rehydrated potato chip would be

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dried to a point that is less friable" (emphasis added) relies on a reading that is directly contradicted by the reference and therefore impermissible.

In short, the rejection of claims 16-20 cannot be supported by Bear or Matz, either alone or in combination. The chips of Bear have clearly been hydrated throughout and therefore do not meet the recitation of the claims. Matz does not provide a motivation to modify Bear, since Matz would suggest that drying the soggy chips of Bear would increase, not decrease the friability of the chips. The rejection of the claims over Bear and Matz should be reconsidered and, upon reconsideration, withdrawn.

C. Rejection of claims 21-31 over Bear and Fennema

The Action rejects claims 21-31 in view of Bear in combination with the previously cited reference, Fennema, ed., FOOD CHEMISTRY, Marcel Dekker, Inc., New York, New York (2nd ed, 1985)(hereafter, "Fennema"). According to the Action, "Bear discloses, at page 75, treating nuts in boiling water for 3 minutes to remove the skin. Then the nuts are dried in a towel." Action, at page 3. Fennema is cited as teaching that very low water activity promotes lipid oxidation. The Action asserts that "at a specific level of bound water in foods, one of ordinary skill in the art would expect the shelf life of a shelled nut to be extended because of the protection that water provides to the dried product." Action, at page 4. Applicants traverse.

Claim 21 recites "contacting said nut with water . . . without boiling the nut." The method taught by Bear is therefore clearly outside the scope of the claimed invention. The rejection therefore must rest on the argument that Fennema provides motivation for modifying Bear to contact the nut without boiling it. Fennema does not do so. This portion of Fennema was previously raised in the September 2005 Office Action. As Applicants noted in the February 2006 Amendment, even assuming the Action were correct in assuming that Fennema would motivate a practitioner to add water to a shelled nut "because of the protection that water provides to the dried product", this would not explain why the practitioner would then be motivated to promptly remove that protection by drying the nut back to its original water content, as recited by claim 21. Anyone expecting that a water layer would add protection would

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manifestly then want to maintain that protection by keeping the nut hydrated. The Action's argument therefore would have merit, if at all, only if claim 21 did not contain a drying step, which it does.

As noted above, Bear discloses treating nuts in boiling water for 3 minutes to remove the skin. Action, at page 3. Fennema does not suggest modifying Bear to avoid the boiling step. Bear then teaches towel drying the nuts, a step that Fennema would teach away from since it would reduce the protective effect of hydrating the nut. In short, neither reference teaches the claimed invention alone or in combination, and neither provides a motivation to modify the other to practice the invention as claimed as doing so would destroy the intended effect.

Accordingly, the Fennema and Bear references do not teach or suggest the method of the invention as claimed. The rejection of the claims over the cited references should therefore be reconsidered and upon reconsideration, withdrawn.

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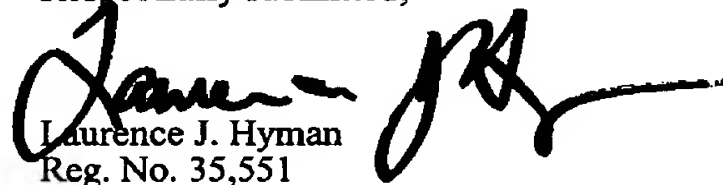
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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,


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Abbr.

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terms of the sequence differs from this number by less than any given positive amount 7: something that is exasperating or intolerable — *lim-it-less* \lī-mə-təs-ē\ *adj.* — *lim-it-less-ly* *adv.* — *lim-it-less-ness* *n.*

limit *v.* (14c) 1: to assign certain limits to: **PRESCRIBE** (reserved the right to ~ use of the land) 2 a: to restrict the bounds or limits of (the specialist can no longer ~ himself to his specialty) b: to curtail or reduce in quantity or extent (we must ~ the power of aggressors) — *lim-it-able* \lī-mə-tə-bəl\ *adj.* — *lim-it-er* *n.*

syn **LIMIT, RESTRICT, CIRCUMSCRIBE, CONFINE** mean to set bounds for. **LIMIT** implies setting a point or line (as in time, space, speed, or degree) beyond which something cannot or is not permitted to go (visits are limited to 30 minutes). **RESTRICT** suggests a narrowing or tightening or restraining within or as if within an encircling boundary (laws intended to restrict the freedom of the press). **CIRCUMSCRIBE** stresses a restriction on all sides and by clearly defined boundaries (the work of the investigating committee was carefully circumscribed). **CONFINE** suggests severe restraint and a resulting cramping, fettering, or hampering (our freedom of choice was confined by finances).

lim-i-tary \lī-mə-tēr-ē\ *adj.* (1620) 1 *archaic*: subject to limits 2 a *archaic*: of or relating to a boundary b: **LIMITING, ENCLOSING**

lim-i-ta-tion \lī-mə-tā-shən\ *n.* (14c) 1: an act or instance of limiting 2: the quality or state of being limited 3: something that limits: **RESTRAINT** 4: a certain period limited by statute after which actions, suits, or prosecutions cannot be brought in the courts — *lim-i-ta-tion-al* \-shən-ē\ *adj.*

lim-i-ta-tive \lī-mə-tā-tīv\ *adj.* (1530): **LIMITING, RESTRICTIVE**

lim-it-ed *adj.* (1610) 1 a: confined within limits: **RESTRICTED** (~ success) b of a train: offering faster service esp. by making a limited number of stops 2: characterized by enforceable limitations prescribed (as by a constitution) upon the scope or exercise of powers (a ~ monarchy) 3: lacking breadth and originality (a bit ~; a bit thick in the head — Virginia Woolf) — *lim-it-ed-ly* *adv.* — *lim-it-ed-ness* *n.*

limited-access *adj.* (1944) of a road: having access restricted to a relatively small number of points

limited edition *n.* (1903): an issue of something collectible (as books, prints, or medals) that is advertised to be limited to a relatively small number of copies

limited liability *n.* (1855): liability (as of a stockholder or shipowner) limited by statute or treaty

limited partner *n.* (1907): a partner in a venture who has no management authority and whose liability is restricted to the amount of his investment — compare **GENERAL PARTNER** — **limited partnership** *n.*

limited war *n.* (1939): a war whose objective is less than the total defeat of the enemy

lim-it-ing *adj.* (1849) 1 a: functioning as a limit: **RESTRICTIVE** (~ value) b: being an environmental factor (as a nutrient) that limits the population size of an organism 2: serving to specify the application of the modified noun (this in "this book" is a ~ word) — *lim-it-ing-ly* *adv.*

limit point *n.* (1905): a point that is related to a set of points in such a way that every neighborhood of the point no matter how small contains another point belonging to the set — called also *point of accumulation*

lim-i-trophe \lī-mə-trōf-, -trōf\ *adj.* [F, fr. LL *limitrophus* bordering upon, lit., providing subsistence for frontier troops, irreg. fr. L *limit*, *limes* boundary + Gk *trophos* feeder, fr. *trophē* to nourish] (1763): situated on a border or frontier: **ADJACENT**

lim-mer \lī-mər\ *n.* [ME (Sc)] (15c) 1 chiefly Scot: **SCOUNDREL** 2 chiefly Scot: **PROSTITUTE**

limn \līm\ *v.* **limned**; **limn-ing** \līm-īŋ\ [ME *limnen*, *limnen* to illuminate (a manuscript), fr. MF *enluminer*, fr. L *illuminare* to illuminate] (1592) 1: to draw or paint on a surface 2: to outline in clear sharp detail: **DELINEATE** 3: **DESCRIBE** — *limn-er* \lī-mər-, -līm-nər\ *n.*

lim-net-ic \līm-nē-tik\ *adj.* [ISV, fr. Gk *limnē* pool, marshy lake; perh. akin to L *limus* mud — more at **LIME**] (1899): of, relating to, or inhabiting the open water of a body of fresh water (~ environment)

lim-nol-o-gy \līm-nā-lə-jē\ *n.* [Gk *limnē* + ISV *-logi*] (ca. 1888): the scientific study of bodies of fresh water (as lakes) — *lim-nol-o-gi-cal* \līm-nā-lə-jē-kəl\ *adj.* — *lim-nol-o-gist* \līm-nā-lə-jist\ *n.*

limo \lī-mō\ *n.* pl *lim-os* (1968): **LIMOUSINE**

Limoges \lī-mōzh\ *n.* [Limoges, France] (1844): enamelware or porcelain made at Limoges

lim-o-nene \lī-mə-nēn\ *n.* [ISV, fr. F *limon* lemon, fr. MF] (1845): a widely distributed terpene hydrocarbon C₁₀H₁₆ that occurs in essential oils (as of oranges or lemons) and has a lemon odor

lim-o-nite \lī-mə-nīt\ *n.* [G *Limnosit*, fr. Gk *leimōn* wet meadow; akin to Gk *limnē* pool] (1823): a native hydrous ferric oxide of variable composition that is a major ore of iron — *lim-o-nit-ic* \lī-mə-nīt-ik\ *adj.*

Lim-ou-sin \lī-mū-sin-, -lī-mə-zēn-, -lē-mū-zə\ *n.* [Limousin, France] (1920): any of a French breed of medium-sized yellow-red cattle bred esp. for meat

lim-ou-sine \lī-mə-zēn-, -lī-mə-ē\ *n.* [F, lit., cloak, fr. Limousin, France] (1902) 1: a large luxurious often chauffeur-driven sedan that sometimes has a glass partition separating the driver's seat from the passenger compartment 2: a large vehicle for transporting passengers to and from an airport

limousine liberal *n.* (1969): a wealthy political liberal

limp \līmp\ *v.* (prob. fr. ME *lympen* to fall short; akin to OE *limpan* to happen, *lemphealt* lame] (ca. 1570) 1 a: to walk lamely; esp: to walk favoring one leg b: to go unsteadily: **FALTER** 2: to proceed slowly or with difficulty (the ship ~ed back to port) — *limp-er* *n.*

limp *n.* (1818): a limping movement or gait

limp *adj.* [akin to *limp*] (ca. 1706) 1 a: lacking firm texture, substance, or structure (~ curtains) (her hair hung ~ about her shoulders) b: not stiff or rigid (a book in a ~ binding) 2 a: **WEARY, EXHAUSTED** (~ with fatigue) b: lacking in strength, vigor, or firmness: **SPIRITLESS** — *limp-ly* *adv.* — *limp-ness* *n.*

lim-pa \līm-pə\ *n.* [Sw] (1948): rye bread made with molasses or brown sugar

lim-pet \līm-pet\ *n.* [ME *lempet*, fr. OE *lempedu*, fr. ML *lampreda* lamprey] (bef. 12c) 1: a marine gastropod mollusk (esp. families

Acmaeidae and Patellidae) that has a low conical shell broadly open beneath, browses over rocks or timbers in the littoral area, and clings very tightly when disturbed 2: one that clings tenaciously to someone or something 3: an explosive device designed to cling magnetically to a metallic surface (as the hull of a ship)

lim-pid \līm-pəd\ *adj.* [F or L; F *limpide*, fr. L *limpidus*, perh. fr. *lymphe* water — more at **LYMPH**] (1613) 1 a: marked by transparency: **PELLUCID** (~ streams) b: clear and simple in style (~ prose) 2: absolutely serene and happy

lim-pid-i-ty \līm-pī-dē-tē\ *n.* — *lim-pid-ly* \līm-pī-dē-lē\ *adv.* — *lim-pid-ness* *n.*

limp-kin \līm(p)-kən\ *n.* [perh. fr. *limp*] (1871): a large brown waterfowl (*Aramus guarana*) of southern Georgia, Florida, and Central America that resembles a bittern but has a longer slightly curved bill, longer neck and legs, and white stripes on head and neck

limp-wristed \līm-p-ris-təd\ *adj.* (ca. 1960) 1: **EFFECTUALLY** 2: **WEAK**

lim-o-lus \līm-yə-ləs\ *n.* pl -li -li-, -lē\ [NL, genus name, fr. L *limbus* oblique, transverse — more at **LIMEN**] (1837): **HORSESHOE CRAB**

lim-y \līm-ē\ *adj.* *lim-i-er*; -est (ca. 1352) 1: smeared with or consisting of lime or limestone 2: containing lime or limestone 3: **ROCKY** or having the qualities of lime

lin-ac \lī-nak\ *n.* (1950): **LINEAR ACCELERATOR**

lin-age \lī-nij\ *n.* (1884): the number of lines of printed or written matter

lin-al-o-ol \lī-nā-lə-wōl-, -wōl\ *n.* [ISV, fr. MexSp *linde*, the yielding perfume, fr. ML *lignum aloes*, lit., wood of the aloes] (1891): a fragrant liquid alcohol C₁₅H₂₂O that occurs both free and in the form of esters in many essential oils and is used in perfumes, soaps, and flavoring materials

linch-pin \līnch-pin\ *n.* [ME *lynspin*, fr. *lyn* linchpin (fr. OE *lyn* + *pin*; akin to MHG *luns* linchpin) (13c) 1: a locking pin inserted crosswise (as through the end of an axle or shaft) 2: one that serves to hold together the elements of a complex (the ~ in the defense's case)

Lin-coln \līn-kən\ *n.* [Lincolnshire, England] (1837): any of an English breed of long-wooled mutton-type sheep

Lin-coln-i-a-na \līn-kō-nē-ā-nə-, -ā-nə\ *n.* pl (1921): material relating to Abraham Lincoln

Lincoln's Birthday \līn-kən-z\ *n.* (1898) 1: February 12 observed as a legal holiday in many states of the U.S. 2: the first Monday in February observed as a legal holiday by some states of the U.S.

lin-co-my-cin \līn-kō-mī-sēn\ *n.* [NL *lincolnensis* (specific epithet of *Streptomyces lincolnensis*) + E *-mycin*] (1963): an antibiotic obtained from an actinomycete (*Streptomyces lincolnensis*) and effective esp. against gram-positive bacteria

lin-dane \līn-dān\ *n.* [T. van der Linden, 20th cent. Du. chemist] (ca. 1949): an insecticide that consists chiefly of the gamma isomer of BHC and is biodegraded very slowly

lin-den \līn-dən\ *n.* [ME, made of linden wood, fr. OE, fr. *lind* linden tree; prob. akin to OE *līne* gentle — more at **LITHE**] (1577) 1: any of a genus (*Tilia* of the family Tiliaceae, the linden family) of trees of temperate regions that are planted as shade trees and are distinguished by having cordate leaves and a winglike bract attached to the peduncle of the flower and fruit: as a: a European tree (*T. europaea*) much used for ornamental planting b: a tall forest tree (*T. americana*) chiefly of the central and eastern U.S. — called also *basswood*, *white wood* 2: the light fine-grained white wood of a linden; esp: **BASSWOOD** 2

lin-dy \līn-dē\ *n.* [prob. fr. *Lindy*, nickname of Charles A. Lindbergh] (1931): a jitterbug dance originating in Harlem and later developing many local variants

line \līn\ *n.*, often *attrib* [ME; partly fr. OF *ligne*, fr. L *linea*, fr. fem. of *lineus* made of flax, fr. *linum* flax; partly fr. OE *line*; akin to OE *lin* flax — more at **LINEN**] (bef. 12c) 1 a: **THREAD, STRING, CORD, ROPE** as (1): a comparatively strong slender cord (2): **CLOTHESLINE** (3): a rope used on shipboard b (1): a device for catching fish consisting of a cord with hooks and other fishing gear (2): scope for activity: **ROPE** c: a length of material used in measuring and leveling d: piping for conveying a fluid (as steam) e (1): a wire or pair of wires connecting one telegraph or telephone station with another or a whole system of such wires; also: any circuit in an electronic communication system (2): a telephone connection (tried to get a ~ to an individual telephone extension (a call on ~) (3): the principal circuits of an electric power system 2 a (1): a horizontal row of written or printed characters; also: a blank row in lieu of such characters (2): a unit in the rhythmic structure of verse formed by the grouping of a number of the smallest units of the rhythm (as metrical feet) (3): an often numbered section of a computer program containing a single command or a small number of commands b: a short letter: **NOTE** c pl: a certificate of marriage d: the words making up a part in a drama — usu. used in pl. e: any of the successive horizontal rows of picture elements on the screen of a cathode-ray tube (as a television screen) 3 a: something (as a ridge or seam) that is distinct, elongated, and narrow b: a narrow crease (as on the face) c: **WRINKLE** d: the course or direction of something in motion: **ROUTE** d (1): a state of agreement or conformity: **ACCORDANCE** (2): a state of order, control, or obedience (you're getting out of ~) e: a boundary of an area (the state ~) f: the track and roadbed of a railway g: an amount of cocaine that is arranged in a line to be inhaled through the nose 4 a: a course of conduct, action, or thought b: a field of



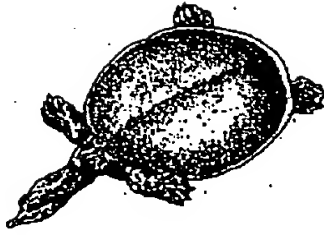
limpet 1



linden 1: branch with bract and fruit

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or temperature (2): moving not violent (~ breezes) 2 a ~ job) 3 a: sounding as and g or their sound b of o vel before which there is a ~ sanant or constituting a ~ like modification or which is 4 archaic: moving in a ~ slope) 6: having curved or ~ hills against the horizon) 7 tenderness: as a (1): not ~ competition) (2): based rather than on force, threats, ~ crisis) (3): tending to take tators) (~ on law and order) 10 a: marked by mildness: un- ~ ggestible or responsive: De o influence: COMPLIANT e ~ FEELER UNMANLY d: un- ~ used with on (has been ~ strength, stamina, or endur- ~ y (grown ~ and indolent) b d) 10 a: yielding to phys- something to sink in ~ used at may be shaped or molded magnetized and demagnetized hardness (~ iron) 11: def- n and magnesium salts) dal having relatively low energy or significant 14: oc- ~ circumstances as to avoid de- ast on the moon) 15: not ~ ground launching site) (~ ~ent) (~ pesticides) 17 of a ~ hard narcotic 18: easily ~ of currency: not readily ~ lateral) 20 a: being low ~ b: SLOOISH, SLOW a ~ unreliable political support) or based on interpretive or ~ g or based on soft data (~ ~ sources of energy (as solar ~) ~ soft-ish ~ soft-ish adj ~ (t)-nos ~ NER: SOFTLY ~ (the ~ of the thumb) ~ VER ~ softback n ~ on a small diamond with a ~ t is pitched underhand; also ~ ~-bo-lor) n ~ of an egg: boiled to a soft

ER

any of a breed of compact and having a soft abundant hard-core] (1966) of pornog- of sex acts that are less ex- flexible covers: not bound ~) ~ softcover n ~ nonalcoholic beverage; esp

ng ~-so-fa-nin, ~-so-fa-nin) n ~ weaken the military resis- (as preliminary bombard- the strength or resistance of ~) ~ vi: to become soft or

l of a photographic image ~roducing an image having ~ot durable ~ used esp. d

bleminded person ~g or indicative of a weak- ~ed-ly adv ~ soft-head-

ionally responsive: SYMPA- ~rt-ed-ness n ~ soft landing) vi (1960): to ~ body (as the moon) ~ vi

involving a conciliatory or ~ar) n ~ack of the hard palate that

AY DOWN, DE EMPHASIZE (~ ~ piano that reduces the vol- ~eaters, or reduces effect ~driving and gentler sound-

ry decay of plants or their ~ gentle persuasion in selling ~ARD SELL ~ a family (Thionychidae) of ~ mandibles and a flat shell

with soft leathery skin ~ of with horny plates ~ ~ soft-shelled turtle ~ (t)-shel or soft- ~-shel) adj (1805) ~ a soft or fragile shell esp. ~ result of recent shedding (~

small clam n (1796): an ~ed clam (*Mya arenaria*) of ~ast coast of No. America ~ as a thin friable shell and ~phons and is used esp. for ~ng ~ called also soft-

Steam, steamer ~oe ~-soft(-shu) adj (1920) ~ relating to tap dancing ~ soft-soled shoes without metal taps

~ap ~-soft(-sop) vi (1840): to soothe or persuade with flattery ~ ~ soft-soap-er ~-sop-er) n ~ap n (1634) 1: a semifluid soap made esp. from potassium ~ ~ 2: FLATTERY

~po-ken ~-sop-ken) adj (1609): having a mild or gentle voice; ~ SUAVE ~spot n (1845) 1: a sentimental weakness (has a soft spot for him)

~pilotable point (a soft spot in the defense system) ~pach n (1939): one who is easily imposed on or taken advantage ~

~ate ~-soft-war, ~-wer) n (1960): something used or associated ~nd usu. contrasted with hardware: as a: the entire set of pro- ~cedures, and related documentation associated with a sys- ~esp: a computer system; specif: computer programs b: ma- ~els for use with audiovisual equipment

~heat n (1812): a wheat with soft starchy kernels high in starch ~sa: low in gluten ~wood ~-soft-wod) n (1832) 1: the wood of a coniferous tree (as ~ pine) whether hard or soft as distinguished from that of an an- ~temous tree 2: a tree that yields softwood

~wood adj (1905): having or made of softwood ~wood-ed ~-soft-wu-ded) adj (1827) 1: having soft wood that is ~to work or finish 2: SOFTWOOD

~ or soft-ly ~-soft-ly) n, pl soft-ies [~soft] (1863) 1: a weak or ~ish person 2: a softened or sentimental person ~-sog-dian ~-sog-dian) n [L *Sogdiani*, pl.; fr. Gk *Sogdiano*, fr. OPers ~-sogdiana] (1953) 1: a native or inhabitant of Sogdiana 2

the Iranian language of the Sogdians ~ see INDO-EUROPEAN LAN- ~guistic ~ Sogdian adj

~sog-gi ~-sog-gi) adj ~sog-gi-er, ~-est [E dial. sog to soak] (1599) 1 ~saturated or heavy with water or moisture: as a: WATERLOGGED, ~aked (a ~ lawn) b: heavy or doughy because of imperfect cooking ~-sog-gi) 2: heavily dull; SPIRITLESS (~ prose) ~sog-gi-ly ~-sog-gi-ly) adv ~sog-gi-ness ~-sog-gi-ness) n

~self-sant ~-sog-de-zan) adj [F, lit., saying oneself] (1752): SELF- ~-sog-called ~usu. used disparagingly (a ~ artist) ~sog-gi or ~sog-gi-ness ~-sog-gi-ness) adj [F, fr. pp. of *soigner* to take care of] (1821) 1: WELL-GROOMED, SLEEK 2: elegantly maintained or de- ~-sog-gi) (a ~ restaurant) (a ~ black dress)

~sog-gi) ~-sog-gi) n [ME, fr. OF *soillier* to wallow, soil, fr. *soil* abyss. ~ppen, prob. fr. L *solium* chair, bathtub; akin to L *sedere* to sit ~-sog-gi) ~-sog-gi) n [13c] 1: to stain or defile morally: CORRUPT, POLLUTE 2: to make unclean esp. superficially: DIRTY 3: to blacken or be- ~-sog-gi) (as a person's reputation) by word or deed ~ vi: to become ~-sog-gi) or dirty

~sog-gi) ~-sog-gi) 1 a: SOILAGE STAIN (protect a dress from ~) b ~ground defilement: CORRUPTION 2: something that spoils or pol- ~-sog-gi) as a: REFUSE b: SEWAGE c: DUNG, EXCREMENT

~sog-gi) n [ME, fr. AF, prob. fr. L *solium* chair] (14c) 1: firm land ~-sog-gi) 2 a: the upper layer of earth that may be dug or plowed ~-sog-gi) 1: to stain or defile morally: CORRUPT, POLLUTE 2: to make unclean esp. superficially: DIRTY 3: to blacken or be- ~-sog-gi) (as a person's reputation) by word or deed ~ vi: to become ~-sog-gi) or dirty

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soke ~-sok) n [ME *soc*, *sok*, fr. OE *soka*, fr. ML *soca*, fr. OE *soca* in- ~quiry, jurisdiction; akin to OE *sacan* to seek] (12b) 1: the right in Anglo-Saxon and early English law to hold court and administer jus- ~tice with the franchise to receive certain fees or fines arising from it ~ jurisdiction over a territory or over people 2: the district included in a soke jurisdiction or franchise

soke-man ~-sok-man) n (1579): a man who is under the soke of an- ~other

sol ~-sol) also so ~-so) n [ML *sol*; fr. the syllable sung to this note in a medieval hymn to St. John the Baptist] (14c) 1: the 5th tone of the dia- ~tonic scale in solmization

sol ~-sol, sol) n [MF ~ more at *sou*] (1583): an old French coin equal to 12 deniers; also: a corresponding unit of value

sol ~-sol, sol) n, pl soles ~-so-les) [AmerSp, fr. Sp. *sol*, fr. L] (ca. 1883): the basic monetary unit of Peru before 1985 and since 1990 ~ see MONEY table

sol ~-sol, sol) n [-sol (as in *hydrosol*), fr. *solución*] (1899): a fluid colloi- ~dal system; esp: one in which the continuous phase is a liquid

Sol ~-sol) n [ME, fr. S] 1: the Roman god of the sun ~ compare HELIOS 2: SUN

sola pl of SOLUM

solace ~-sə-ləs also ~-sə- v so-laced; so-lac-ing) (13c) 1: to give solace to: CONSOLE 2 a: to make cheerful b: AMUSE 3: ALLAY, SOOTHE (~ grief) ~so-lace-ment ~-ment) n ~so-lac-er n

solace n [ME *solax*, fr. OF, fr. L *solacium*, fr. *solari* to console] (14c) 1: alleviation of grief or anxiety 2: a source of relief or consolation

so-la-na-ceous ~-sə-lə-nə-shəs) adj [NL *Solanaceae*, family name, fr. *Solanum*] (1804): of or relating to the nightshade family of plants

so-la-nine also so-la-nin ~-sə-lə-nē-nən) n [F *solanine*, fr. L *solanum*] (1838): a bitter poisonous crystalline alkaloid $C_{45}H_{73}NO_9$ from several plants (as some potatoes or tomatoes) of the nightshade family

so-la-nura ~-sə-lə-nū-rə, ~-lā-, ~-lā-) n [NL, fr. L, nightshade] (ca. 1652) 1: any of a genus (*Solanum*) chiefly of herbs and shrubs of the night- ~shade family that have often prickly-veined leaves, cymose white, pur- ~ple, or yellow flowers, and a fruit that is a berry

so-lar ~-sə-lər, ~-lār) adj [ME, fr. L *solaris*, fr. *sol* sun; akin to OE *s*, ON *sol* sun, Lith *saule*, Gk *helios*] (15c) 1: of, derived from, or relating to the sun esp. as affecting the earth 2: measured by the earth's course in relation to the sun (~ time) (~ year); also: relating to or reckoned by solar time 3 a: produced or operated by the action of the sun's light or heat (~ energy) (~ cooker) b: utilizing the sun's rays esp. to produce heat or electricity (a ~ house); also: of or relating to such utilization (~ design) (~ subsidies)

solar battery n (1934): an array of solar cells

solar cell n (1955): a photovoltaic cell (as one including a junction between two types of silicon semiconductors) that is able to convert light into electrical energy and is used as a power source

solar collector n (1955): any of various devices for the absorption of solar radiation for the heating of water or buildings or the production of electricity

solar constant n (1869): the quantity of radiant solar energy received at the outer layer of the earth's atmosphere that has a mean value of 1370 watts per square meter

solar day n (1764): the interval between transits of the apparent or mean sun across the meridian at any place

solar eclipse n (ca. 1890): an eclipse of the sun by the moon ~ see ECLIPSE illustration

solar flare n (1938): a sudden temporary outburst of energy from a small area of the sun's surface ~ called also *flare*

so-lar-i-um ~-sə-lər-ē-əm, ~-lār-) n, pl -ia ~-sə-ā) also -ium [L, porch exposed to the sun, fr. *sol*] (ca. 1823): a glass-enclosed porch or room; also: a room (as in a hospital) used esp. for sunbathing or therapeutic exposure to light

so-lar-i-za-tion ~-sə-lər-ē-zā-shən) n (1853) 1: a reversal of grada- ~tion in a photographic image obtained by intense or continued expo- ~sure 2: an act or process of solarizing

so-lar-ize ~-sə-lər-ī-zē, ~-lār-) v ~-lized; ~-lizing) (1853) 1 a: to affect by the action of the sun's rays b: to expose to sunlight 2: to subject (pho- ~tographic materials) to solarization

solar panel n (1961): a battery of solar cells (as in a spacecraft)

solar plexus ~-sə-lər-) n [fr. the radiating nerve fibers] (1771) 1: a nerve plexus in the abdomen that is situated behind the stomach and in front of the aorta and the crura of the diaphragm and contains several ganglia distributing nerve fibers to the viscera 2: the pit of the stom- ~ach

solar pond n (1961): a pool of salt water heated by the sun and used either as a direct source of heat or to provide power for an electric gen- ~erator

solar sail n (1958): a propulsive device for a spacecraft that consists of a flat material (as aluminized plastic) designed to receive thrust from solar radiation pressure

solar system n (ca. 1704): the sun together with the group of celestial bodies that are held by its attraction and revolve around it; also: a similar system centered on another star

solar wind n (1958): plasma continuously ejected from the sun's sur- ~face into and through interplanetary space

solation ~-sə-lā-shən, ~-sə-) n (1915): the process of changing to a sol

so-la-ti-um ~-sə-lā-tē-əm, ~-lār-) n, pl -tia ~-sə-tē-ā) [LL *solacium*, *solatium*, fr. L, solace] (1817): a compensation (as money) given as solace for suffering, loss, or injured feelings

soled part and part part of SELL

sol-dan ~-səl-dən, ~-səl-) n [ME, fr. OF, fr. Ar *sultān*] (14c) archaic ~ SULTAN; esp: the sultan of Egypt

sol-dar ~-səl-dər, ~-sə- Brt also ~-səl-dər, ~-səl-) n [ME *soudure*, fr. MF, fr. *souder* to solder, fr. L *solidare* to make solid, fr. *solidus* solid] (14c) 1: a metal or metallic alloy used when melted to join metallic surfaces; esp: an alloy of lead and tin so used 2: something that unites

sol about ~ kitten, F table ~ further ~ a ~ ab ~ a ~ ace ~ a ~ map, mar ~ sol, om ~ ch ~ chin, ~ bet ~ bet ~ easy ~ a ~ go ~ a ~ hit ~ a ~ ice ~ a ~ job ~ a ~ sing ~ a ~ go ~ a ~ law ~ a ~ beg ~ a ~ thin ~ a ~ the ~ a ~ foot ~ a ~ fast ~ a ~ yet ~ a ~ vision ~ a ~ k ~ a ~ ce, ~ ce, ~ ce, ~ ce, ~ ce ~ a ~ see ~ a ~ Guide to Pronunciation

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